AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. **(Currently amended)** A *Myrothecium* host cell comprising at least one recombinant DNA construct for ~~the~~ modulated expression of homologous genes and/or for ~~the~~ an expression of heterologous genes.

2. **(Currently amended)** The host cell according to claim 1 ~~characterized in that~~ wherein said ~~the~~ recombinant DNA ~~from said~~ construct ~~integrates~~ is integrated into a chromosome of the host cell ~~chromosome~~ and/or is present on an episome in the host cell.

3. **(Currently amended)** The host cell according to claim 1 ~~or 2 characterized in that~~ wherein said recombinant DNA construct comprises a nucleic acid sequence encoding a heterologous protein and/or a homologous protein.

4. **(Currently amended)** The host cell according to claim 3 ~~which~~ wherein said recombinant DNA construct comprises a nucleic acid sequence encoding ~~is~~ a fungal protein.

5. **(Currently amended)** The host cell according to ~~any of the preceding claims~~ Claim 1 ~~characterized in that~~ wherein said DNA construct comprises at least one homologous or heterologous tool that allows or enhances protein expression, said tool being selected from the group consisting of a promoter sequence, a terminator sequence, a polyadenylation signal sequence, a leader sequence, a secretion signal sequence, a selection marker gene sequence ~~or~~ and reporter gene sequence.

6. **(Currently amended)** The host cell according to claim 5 ~~characterized in that~~ wherein said homologous or heterologous tool is a selection marker gene sequence ~~is~~ selected from the group consisting of a hygromycine B resistance gene sequence, phleomycin resistance gene sequence, a phosphinothricine resistance gene sequence, acetamidase gene sequence, a pyrG gene sequence, an argB gene sequence, a niaD gene sequence and a trpC gene sequence.

7. **(Currently amended)** The host cell according to claim 5 ~~characterized in that~~ wherein said homologous or heterologous tool is a promoter sequence ~~is~~ selected from the group consisting of ~~the~~ an *Aspergillus oryzae* TAKA-amylase promoter sequence, ~~the~~ an *Rhizomucor miehei* aspartic proteinase promoter sequence, ~~the~~ an *A. niger* gluocamylase promoter sequence, ~~the~~ an *A. niger* neutral α-amylase promoter sequence, ~~the~~ an *A. niger* acid stable α-amylase promoter sequence, ~~the~~ an *R. miehei* lipase promoter sequence and ~~the promoters~~ a promoter sequence of the glycolytic enzymes genes GPD, PGK and ADH.

8. **(Currently amended)** The host cell according to claim 5 ~~characterized in that~~ wherein said promoter is a regulatable promoter.

9. **(Currently amended)** The host cell according to ~~any of the preceding claims~~ Claim 1 selected from the group of *Myrothecium* sp. cells consisting of *Myrothecium inundatum*, *Myrothecium prestonii*, *Myrothecium leucotrichum*, *Myrothecium cinctum*, *Myrothecium masonii*, *Myrothecium roridum*, *Myrothecium verrucaria*, *Myrothecium carmichaelii*, *Myrothecium lachastrae*, *Myrothecium atrum*, *Myrothecium atroviride*, *Myrothecium gramineum* (syn. *Xepiculopsis graminae*) cells.

10. **(Currently amended)** The host cell according to claim 9 ~~characterized in that~~ wherein said host cell is selected from the group consisting of the *Myrothecium gramineum* strain MUCL39210, the *Myrothecium gramineum* strain CBS449.71, the *Myrothecium gramineum* IMI140595, the *Myrothecium gramineum* IMI290405 and the *Myrothecium verrucaria* strain CBS328 cells.

11. **(Currently amended)** The host cells according to claim 9 ~~characterized in that~~ wherein said host cell is the *Myrothecium gramineum* strain MUCL39210 cell.

12. **(Currently amended)** The host cell according to ~~any of the preceding claims~~ Claim 1 comprising a PCNS43 or a p3SR2 vector.

13. **Canceled**

14. **Canceled**

15. **Canceled**

16. **Canceled**

17. **Canceled**

18. **(Currently amended)** A method of genetically modifying ~~transforming~~ *Myrothecium* sp. cells to generate Myrothecium host cells of Claim 1, said method comprising the steps of:

growing *Myrothecium* cells or *Myrothecium* protoplasts; .

~~generating a host cell according to any of claims 1 to 12~~ by introducing into said *Myrothecium* cells or *Myrothecium* protoplasts at least one recombinant DNA construct for a ~~the~~ modulated expression of homologous genes and/or for an ~~the~~ expression of heterologous genes ~~into Myrothecium cells~~; and

selecting genetically modified *Myrothecium* cells or genetically modified *Myrothecium* protoplasts.

19. **(Currently amended)** The method according to claim 18 wherein said recombinant DNA construct is a plasmid or a vector.

20. **(Currently amended)** A genetically modified ~~transformed~~ *Myrothecium* cell ~~strain~~ obtainable by a method according to claim 18 ~~or 19~~.

21. **(Currently amended)** ~~A transformant~~ The genetically modified cell according to claim 20 ~~with~~ having an increased activity selected from the group consisting of increased amylase activity, increased xylanase activity, increased growth rate, and increased biomass production and/or having a reduced protease production.

22. **(Currently amended)** ~~The transformant~~ The genetically modified cell according to claim 20 ~~or 21~~ with an altered metabolic pathway compared to ~~the~~ a nontransformed *Myrothecium* cell ~~strain~~.

23. **(Currently amended)** A method for producing a protein of interest, said method comprising the steps of:

culturing *Myrothecium* host cells ~~according to any of claims~~ of Claim 1 ~~to 12~~ under conditions which permit expression of the protein; and

recovering the protein from said *Myrothecium* cultured host cells ~~culture~~.

24. **(Original)** The method according to claim 23 wherein said protein is a fungal protein.

25. **(Currently amended)** The method according to claim 23 ~~or 24~~ wherein said protein is selected from the group consisting of an enzyme, a therapeutic drug or a biopesticide.